

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 04051 120943Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 /035 W
-----086373 122158Z /66

R 120905Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1048
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CINCPACREPPHIL SUBIC BAY RP
13TH AIR FORCE CLARK AB RP

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4051

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: CSIS STUDY OF PHILIPPINE BASES

REF: STATE 211383

1. DR. CARLSON VISITED SINGAPORE SEPTEMBER 7-12 IN CONNEC-
TION WITH CSIS STUDY OF PHILIPPINE BASES. SHE DID NOT CON-
TACT EMBASSY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 11. UPON ARRIVAL SINGAPORE,
SHE GOT IN TOUCH WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO REQUEST
TOUR OF LARGE SEMBAWANG SHIP REPAIR AND SERVICING FACILI-
TIES, TOUR OF JURONG INDUSTRIAL AREA, AND APPOINTMENTS WITH
DEFENSE MINISTER GOH AND SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS LEE KHOON CHOY.

2. MFA ARRANGED TOURS OF SEMBAWANG AND JURONG, AS WELL AS
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APPOINTMENT WITH MID-LEVEL GSO OFFICIAL WHO DESCRIBED DETAILS
OF SEMBAWANG OPERATIONS. MINISTRY WAS NOT, HOWEVER, ABLE TO
ARRANGE REQUESTED HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

3. MORNING SEPTEMBER 11, DR. CARLSON CONTACTED DCM TO REQUEST
EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING APPOINTMENTS WITH DR. GOH
AND MINISTER LEE. LIKE MFA, WE WERE UNABLE ARRANGE THEM ON SUCH

SHORT NOTICE.

4. DR. CARLSON CALLED ON DCM AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 11. SHE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT HER INABILITY TO MEET TOP-LEVEL SINGAPOREANS, SAYING THAT WHILE IN MANILA SHE HAD BEEN ABLE TO MEET WITH SENIOR PHILIPPINE LEADERSHIP FROM PRESIDENT MARCOS ON DOWN. SHE NOTED THAT HER REPORT WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE OPEN THE QUESTION OF SINGAPORE ATTITUDES TOWARD PHILIPPINE BASES. DCM POINTED OUT THAT SINGAPORE POSITION TOWARD CONTINUED U.S. PRESENCE IN SEA WAS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD, WITH GOS PROBABLY THE MOST OUTSPOKEN OF ALL ASEAN GOVERNMENTS IN ENDORSING ACTIVE U.S. ROLE IN REGION.

5. DISCUSSING HER STUDY, DR. CARLSON INDICATED THAT FINDINGS SO FAR HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE. IN PHILIPPINES, SHE SAID, SOME PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS (INCLUDING MARCOS HIMSELF) EXPRESSED ENTHUSIASM OVER IDEA OF CONVERTING SUBIC AND CLARK AFB INTO COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS, WHILE OTHER PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS RAISED SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO CONCEPT.

6. DR. CARLSON ASKED WHETHER WE BELIEVED SINGAPORE WOULD BE WILLING TO GRANT ADDITIONAL NAVAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES TO USG IN EVENT USE OF PHILIPPINE BASES BY U.S. FORCES WAS CURTAILED. DCM REPLIED THAT SETTING UP NEW FOREIGN BASE FACILITIES IN COUNTRY WHERE THEY HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY EXISTED WAS QUITE DIFFERENT THING FROM CONTINUED OPERATION OF

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EXISTING BASES; WHILE SINGAPORE WAS ACTIVELY COOPERATIVE WITH USG IN NUMBER OF AREAS, IT WOULD REQUIRE COMPLETE REVERSAL OF CURRENT GOS FOREIGN POLICY TO PERMIT A NEW FOREIGN MILITARY BASE TO BE ESTABLISHED ON ITS TERRITORY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP04051
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780371-0403
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780976/aaaackwe.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 81cb5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 211383
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1466118
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSIS STUDY OF PHILIPPINE BASES
TAGS: MARR, RP, CSIS, (CARLSON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/81cb5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014